Bowling Green Ky. Dec 29th 1858

Dear Brother.

I received your letter this morning. Father wrote to me of your good fortune in getting married. I was very much pleased to hear this of you. I believe you have got the best wife on earth. & if you are not happy & contented now you never will be. If I ever get married & do half as well as you I will be satisfied. When I go back to Vermont I expect I shall see the young Pamelas on every apple tree as we used to say when we were hoeing corn on the hill. But I tell you one thing. don't you go to raising a lot of boys. If you are going to raise young-ones, speak for girls.

I am still here in Bowling Green. It is snowing here a little to day. The weather however is generally warm as it is in Vt in September. & I presume before to-morrow night the snow will all be gone & it will be warm again. As for staying in Bowling Green. I don't believe I shall do it. I am acquainted with people who have lived in Alabama & Mississippi. They say it is just as healthy there as here. & that a teacher can make down there 10 dollars while he is making one here. I have also seen people who have lived in the southern part of Louisiana. They say it is the healthiest place in the world. & a great place for teachers, especially those who can teach French. I am going

to study French. I can get a knowledge of it in six weeks if I set out. I received a letter from a classmate, Maranville, the other day. He wishes to come into this country. Wants me to find him a situation. I wrote to him if he would come out here if we could not locate here to suit us we would go south somewhere & kick up a muss. I expect he will come.

Father is afraid I will have some trouble here in teaching. He tells a long yarn about Sommers Foot, how he was driven out of his school-house in Lexington by a woman. This is all a humbug. Sommers Foot never had any trouble in Lexington; if he did he must have had a sheep's spunk to let a woman drive him out of a school-house, even if she did present a pistol to his breast. As for me, I don't anticipate any trouble. I certainly shan't be driven out of my house by a woman; because I can shoot as well as they.

They are getting up a company here for California & want me to go. What do you think about it. it will be a grand chance for fun, if I didn't get any gold out there. Hurra for California! Go it while you are young. I attended a wedding here the other night. I saw "Sights."

This week I do not keep school.
It is Christmas week & a holyday week for all people of the South, especially the "niggers". Neither do I lose the time all holydays are clear gain for the school teacher.

They say the Cholera is in Nashville 60 miles South & also in Louisville 120 miles North. The people are expecting it will come here if it does, it will probably break up my school. I have not collected any money yet for teaching & don't know as I can till the close of the term, & if the school is broken up I don't know as I shall be able to collect any at all. If this all happens, I shall be in a pretty fix, a lot on my tother end. 9 miles from home without a cent of money. Never mind if it does come, I'll be mad & whistle, & start for Texas or some other place out of Christendom.

You better not let Father or any one see this part of my letter or let any one know that I anticipate trouble from the Cholera. If I meet with disappointment upon sickness I don't know as I am to blame. anyhow, I would'nt like to have our folks know it for it may cause them some trouble. If I escape the pestilence I shall do well enough, & if I have it, all the money in the world would do me no good. If I had a plenty of money, however I should start my boots if it come here.

I tell you what Bill, you wrote me a first rate letter, suppose you give us another, it wont hurt you to write another. And if you please, just give my love to Sister Julia, & tell her if she has no objections I would like to hear a word from her. If you are not the happiest man on earth, you ought to be killed. Give my love to all. Hurra to thunder!

Your affectionate Brother
Steve

Way down here in
Old Kentucky.

If you get any letters up there for me, just send them down here.

I wish you all a happy new-year

I have not seen a Middlebury paper since I have been here. If you have no objections, just send one. It will cost only 3 cents.